



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

NOTE ON COMET *e* 1915 (TAYLOR.)

Comet *e* 1915 was first observed by Mr. TAYLOR at the Cape of Good Hope on December 2nd. The news of the discovery was cabled to England and reached Harvard Observatory somewhat delayed by the activities of the censors.

The first observation in this country was made by BURTON, at the U. S. Naval Observatory, on December 6th. On the next night AITKEN at Lick, VAN BIESBROECK at Yerkes, and WILSON at Northfield, obtained measures of its position. Thus far twenty observations have been received at the Students' Observatory, seventeen of which were made by the observers named above, the other three by MESSRS. GREEN and SANFORD at the Lick Observatory.

A preliminary parabolic orbit was computed at Berkeley, by Miss SOPHIA H. LEVY and Mr. C. D. SHANE, and was telegraphed to Harvard College Observatory. It is published in H. C. O. Bulletin No. 595. This orbit was based on one-day intervals. The geocentric motion was unusually slow and the orbit was correspondingly uncertain.

A second orbit was attempted by the undersigned, based on an eight-day arc, also on the parabolic hypothesis. It was found impossible after repeated trials to secure a satisfactory representation of the observations. The run of the residuals showed quite definitely that a parabola would not yield satisfactory representation.

The next orbit, tho based on the previously computed parabola, was without assumption as to eccentricity. It was based on an arc of eleven days. This orbit furnished a satisfactory representation of the observations. The resulting elliptic elements, together with an ephemeris to February 1st, are given in L. O. Bulletin No. 276.

The nearest approach to the Earth occurred on the 3d of January, when the comet was 56,000,000 miles distant. The nearest approach to the Sun, or the perihelion passage, will take place on January 28th, when the comet will be at a distance of 135,000,000 miles from the Sun. Its brightness is slowly decreasing and is such that on the 1st of February it will be about nine-tenths as bright as it was on December 13th, when it was of about the eleventh magnitude. It will be

36 *Publications of the Astronomical Society, &c.*

favorably situated for some time, however. It is moving north, and is near opposition to the Sun. AITKEN states that the comet has a well-defined, tho faint, nucleus and that it is brighter photographically than visually.

The major axis of the orbit of about 280,000,000 miles, would indicate that the comet is a member of the *Jupiter* group. The eccentricity is approximately 0.5, the inclination to the ecliptic 14° , the longitude of the ascending node 114° , the longitude of the perihelion 107° , and the revolution period 5.3 years.

It is hoped that the comet will be observed as long as possible, as its elliptical character gives it unusual interest. Thus far, no identification with a previously known comet has been made, but it is not impossible that this may be done with a more definite orbit.

H. M. JEFFERS,
FERD. J. NEUBAUER.

STUDENTS' OBSERVATORY,
BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA.

PERSONAL NOTES.

Dr. CHARLES E. ADAMS, Government Astronomer of New Zealand, who has been in residence at the Lick Observatory as Martin Kellogg Fellow for the past year, sailed for New Zealand on the Maitai, on January 7, 1916.

Dr. W. W. CAMPBELL was one of the twenty-one official delegates of the United States to the Second Pan-American Scientific Congress, which held its sessions at Washington from December 27, 1915, to January 8, 1916. He also served as the delegate from the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and, with Professor SOLON I. BAILEY, represented the American Astronomical Society. At the joint session of the Congress and the American Association held on Monday evening, January 3rd, Dr. R. S. WOODWARD presided, and Dr. CAMPBELL gave an illustrated lecture on "The Evolution of the Stars."